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NIGHT TRAIN for five percussionists

Nicholas Sackman

1993

NIGHT TRAIN

Synthesizer Bass

This part was created using a Yamaha YS200 digital synthesizer. The following instructions are therefore written with that instrument in mind. Should a YS200 synthesizer not be available, the instructions may have to be modified slightly.

- 1. The sound required for this part was a 'pre-set' within the YS200 entitled 'PLUCK BRASS'. This sound is fairly fat and brassy but also has a slightly breathy quality. There is some attack to the sound but almost no decay. Since the YS200 can add digital reverberation to the pre-set sound, this facility was set to 'Hall Reverberation' with a two-second value (but this might need to be modified in the light of the acoustics of the hall in which the piece is being played). It is important that the Modulation Wheel is set to Zero.
- 2. Because of the internal electronic architecture of the YS200, selecting Pluck Brass automatically transposes the whole keyboard down one octave. Thus, playing Middle C (marked by Yamaha on the keyboard as C3) results in the C one octave lower being heard.
- 3. The Synthesizer Bass part of **Night Train** is notated **AS PLAYED**. Thus, the notes are notated in their normal position and played in their normal position (as they would be played, for example, on a piano) but at the sounds are heard one octave lower.
- 4. The YS200 synthesizer is touch-sensitive. Using the pre-set Pluck Brass automatically results in a touch-sensitivity of 1 (from a range of 1-7). On this particular synthesizer this means that the keyboard is fairly sensitive to the player's touch. This sensitivity should be sufficient to accommodate the changes in dynamics required in the part.
- 5. It must be remembered at all times that this synthesizer part's tonal quality must not project awkwardly from the ensemble.
- 6. Alternatively, it might be possible for the part to be played on an Electric Bass Guitar.

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